

Submit Nominations for the 2008 Take Pride In Idaho Awards

The Idaho Tourism Division invites, and encourages you to review the criteria for the annual Take Pride in Idaho Awards and submit nominations. Deadline for entries is Friday, April 18, 2008.

The awards, as most of you know, are presented at the Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism which will be held May 7-8 at the Red Lion Hotel in Pocatello, Idaho.

Please download and make copies of the nomination form or forward via e-mail to anyone you think should be aware of these awards and the opportunity to be recognized at the Governor's Conference.

Please e-mail the forms back to Renea at renea.nelson@tourism.idaho.gov

If e-mail is not an option - Fax: (208) 334-2631

2007 Winners:

- **Outstanding Special Achievement:** Rick Shaffer of the Wallace Inn in Wallace, Idaho, officially proclaimed the Prime Minister of Hospitality and Goodwill of Historic Wallace, by the Mayor and City Council, has been promoting Wallace, the Silver Valley and North Idaho for 15 years. He is a board member and past president of the North Idaho Tourism Alliance, Idaho Lodging and Restaurant Association, the Wallace Chamber of Commerce, Historic Wallace Planning and Zoning Committee and the 6th Street Melodrama.
- **Outstanding Special Achievement:** Organizers of the first annual Honda Ski Tour in Ketchum – Sun Valley, Kipp Nelson and Steve Brown shared this award. This highly successful event featured the world's top athletes competing in two of skiing's most progressive disciplines, skier-cross and skier halfpipe. It also offered a half million dollars in prize money. After the premier event in Sun Valley, the Honda Ski Tour traveled to Breckenridge and Aspen, Colorado and Squaw Valley, California.
- **Outstanding Historic Preservation:** The Blaine County Historical Museum in Hailey, Idaho, received the Outstanding Historic Preservation Award. The museum, in a building originally built in 1887 has served the community in a variety of roles, from a Spanish-American War Armory to an opera house. The museum's website features a 360-degree virtual tour of exhibits at www.bchistoricalmuseum.org.
- **Outstanding Cultural Tourism:** The Cultural Tourism Award went to the Idaho International Dance and Music Festival. The festival brings more than 300 visitors from nearly a dozen countries to perform and share their culture. On three different occasions the festival has been chosen as one of the top 100 events in North America by the American Bus Association and the participating dancers consistently vote it as the best festival they have ever attended. The 2007 festival was the twenty-second season for the Dance and Music Festival in Rexburg.
- **Outstanding Visitor Center:** The Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center. In addition to recent physical renovations at the center, the award recognized the center's innovative approach to attracting volunteers. The Chamber takes advantage of an employment and training program offered through Idaho Commerce and Labor to hire a senior citizen, partner with local real estate offices and the school system to have agents and students take turns in the center.
- **Media:** The 2007 Media Award was presented to Michele Dill, editor of Horizon Air Magazine. In more than 80 articles and 67 departmental pieces produced, Michele has been a powerful promoter of Idaho's lifestyle, heritage, events and attractions.
- **Governor's Award:** This special award went to Sara Focht and Deniz Aygen, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, for their work in production of the Idaho Birding Trail Guide. With 175 sites and about 2,000 miles of trail, the birding trail represents a collection of bird watching hotspots, diverse habitats, and a glimpse of Idaho's rich natural heritage. The book costs \$5 and may be ordered online, www.idahobirdingtrail.org.